

Lawrence University

Lux

---

Spiritual and Religious Life Annual Reports

Spiritual and Religious Life

---

2017

## Office of Spiritual and Religious Life End of Year Report 2016-2017

Lawrence University

Follow this and additional works at: [https://lux.lawrence.edu/spiritualreligiouslife\\_annualreports](https://lux.lawrence.edu/spiritualreligiouslife_annualreports)



Part of the [Religion Commons](#)

© Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

---

This Annual Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Spiritual and Religious Life at Lux. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spiritual and Religious Life Annual Reports by an authorized administrator of Lux. For more information, please contact [colette.brautigam@lawrence.edu](mailto:colette.brautigam@lawrence.edu).



# Office of Spiritual and Religious Life

## End of Year Report 2016-2017

*The Office of Spiritual and Religious Life provides a welcoming and supportive environment for spiritual and religious explorations and expressions of faith.*

*Programs, services, and student groups bring the Lawrence community together for educational opportunities, multifaith conversations around critical topics, campus ceremonies, and religious services and celebrations.*

*The Center for Spiritual and Religious Life is a welcoming place for curious, intentional, respectful engagement with persons of similar, different or no religious tradition, and for quiet personal reflection and spiritual practice.*

Linda Morgan-Clement, DMin.

Julie Esch Hurvis Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life

Karen Brennan

Administrative Assistant

Sabin House Coordinator & VCSC Support

John Newhall '19

Student Employee

Spiritual Lives at Lawrence

SABIN HOUSE  
Center for Spiritual and Religious Life



## CONTENTS

### Sections

Introduction	2
Approach to the Work	3
Sabin House History	4
Goals for Year One	5
Photo Collage	10
Year One At A Glance	12
Programs and Public Occasions	13
Looking Ahead	15

### Graphs / Charts / Lists

Faith Based Student Organizations	5
Connected Student Organizations	6
Source of Individuals	7
Frequency of Individuals	8
Purpose for Individuals	8
S&RL Relationships	9



I am very pleased to share this first End of Year Report for Lawrence University's Office of Spiritual and Religious Life. Thanks to the vision of President Mark Burstein and Vice President for Student Affairs, Nancy Truesdell and the generosity of Tom Hurvis '60, Lawrence was able to establish an office of Spiritual and Religious Life (S&RL) in Julie Esch Hurvis' '61 name. The vision for this office included staffing and the renovation of a campus building.

Following a national search, I was honored to be invited to serve as the first Julie Esch Hurvis Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life. I arrived at Lawrence in September of 2016 to begin the work of assessing possibilities, designing and creating a Center for Spiritual and Religious Life, and establishing the office. This year end report articulates the philosophy and approach that I bring to this work and chronicles the activities and impact of the first year.

The renovation of Sabin House to serve as the Center for Spiritual and Religious Life and its establishment as a new entity on campus and in the community has taken most of the resources and attention this year. These resources include the imaginations of many individuals, the skill and expertise of Lawrence's facilities staff and outside contractors, the time and thoughtful reflection of students, staff, and administrators who cared about details small and large, and who all shared their stories and hunger for a place that would nurture and challenge their spiritual and religious lives.

Sabin House has become a peaceful, lively, welcoming center for spiritual and religious life in a wide range of forms, more importantly, I hope that the house and the office symbolize an important culture shift that is beginning to take place at Lawrence. This is the intentional inclusion of spiritual & religious identities and worldviews into Lawrence's mission of fostering a transformative process that cultivates respect for the perspectives of others and prepares students for lives of responsible and meaningful citizenship, lifelong learning and personal fulfillment.

2016-17 has been an exciting year and we are off to a strong start. I hope that those of you reading this will be inspired to share the vision and the work that lies ahead. I welcome your responses.

*Linda J. Morgan*

# Approach to the Work

The opportunity to bring the experience and knowledge from thirty plus years of ministry and twenty years of higher education chaplaincy to Lawrence to enhance its mission of educating the whole person is both exhilarating and daunting. In approaching this first year, I draw from my experience in new church development as well as my experience in higher education chaplaincy to establish some principles for our approach in these foundational years. Keeping an eye on a long term goal will help ensure that the foundation is solid enough to serve generations of Lawrentians.

## Listening

In order to establish a presence for S&RL, first we will listen to people and stories that come from a diversity of perspectives. Listening not to “do” rather to understand the people who are Lawrence, how the culture functions, what is here, what is missing, where there is hunger, fear, passion, energy, fatigue, and partnership.

I believe strongly that to be effective, the work of the Dean, the Center for S&RL and its staff must engage with persons across the campus and not limit services or programs to students only. While student life is the focus of our work, we will be ineffective if there is not an inter-generational community that can model, mentor, companion, challenge, and nurture.

## Modeling

We will operate out of the conviction that spiritual life is best recognized in a conviction of interdependence and the resulting actions and ethical choices that demonstrate this awareness and commitment to others. One of the most effective and lasting ways to educate is to model. Our approach in these early years is to practice mindfulness with each person, meeting, decision, and task – to the best of our ability. The Center for S&RL invites all who enter to be role models for each other.

The process of creating the new Center for S&RL has afforded a pause to imagine into existence a physical space that invites a culture shift from anxiety, hurry, and judgement toward presence, silence, brave engagement, and reflection on meaning and purpose. The care that so many put into the colors, lighting, spaces, furniture, art work, wood work, and more is in itself a model for collaborative design that encourages brave engagement.

Modeling also serves to help break stereotypes and this will be an important task at Lawrence. The office of S&RL will work to open up spaces for persons of faith or no faith to take seriously this component of an intersectional identity so that it is not left out of what students, faculty, and staff are able to contribute to the *mélange* that is the Lawrence community. Brave spaces for multi-faith encounters help encourage growth for the whole person. They also allow us to expose the challenging ethical and social issues of our day to the diverse resources developed over centuries by communities of faith.

## Patience

This has been a watch-word this year and will need to continue to be for the next few years. Patience is required to allow my sense of the place, the relationships, the programs, and the community's expectations mature. Coming from a fully developed ministry into the early phases means that I must resist the temptation to compare or to expect that this will develop more quickly than it can or should.



Lawrence runs at a swift pace and the office of S&RL needs to be a conscientious partner in helping to set a pace that is human and humane, and that values the important margins that allow us to be responsive rather than reactive and mindful rather than anxious. Patience will allow us to cherish the gift of possibilities as opportunities emerge so that there is time for the process to unfold and care can be taken in the choices that we make about where to engage and where to let be.

## Persistence

Establishing a vision for the role of S&RL in the Lawrence experience will require persistence. Persistent modeling, reframing, experimenting, and offering partnership takes stamina and remembering that suspicion or resistance is not the last word or the end of a conversation. Being willing to return and to wait, to gently remind and to allow stories to settle in can only come from conviction that is not anxious or competitive.

Students and employees who may have felt side-lined or who have had this part of their identity made invisible will need steady and dependable encouragement that invites everyone to bring this part of themselves to the table. Groups of like-minded people can offer support but diverse groups lead to real spiritual growth and ethical dialogues. Earning voice and trust in a community that is in a time of very real change will take cheerful and compassionate witness to the impact of the rushed and overflowing, competitive or exhausted culture, on the very people it is designed to serve.

## Sabin House History

Sabin House (739 E. Alton St. as of 2016)  
Information from the LU Archives <sup>1</sup>

Circa 1874-1884: The house was built. Original resident was Joseph Hammond (class of 1860 and a Lawrence trustee 1874-1885) and his family. The family moved to Appleton in October 1874 from Oshkosh. Hammond died in 1902 in a bicycle accident.

1910: House sold to the Beta Sigma Phi (local that later affiliated with Beta Theta Pi national) fraternity.

1925: With city-wide address changes, the address of the house changed from 534 E. John St. to 728 E. John St.

1937: Lawrence bought the house from the Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

December 1939 / January 1940: To make room for the fraternity quadrangle construction, Lawrence physically moved the house about 50 yards and rotated it 180 degrees to 739 E. Alton St. A concrete block basement was built for the new site. The house was dubbed “East House” and used for men’s housing.

1963: East House was repurposed for faculty apartments. From this time until 1998 the house was sometimes used for student housing, sometimes rented out to faculty, and sometimes used for other purposes (like serving as the home of A Better Chance, 1968-1970).

Winter 1998: House was renamed Sabin House and used for women’s housing following overcrowding in campus housing with the return of off-campus students. Used for student housing until 2016.

2016-2017: House was extensively renovated as it became the home for the new Center for Spiritual and Religious Life.

1. Information prepared by LU Archivist Erin Dix

# Goals for Year One

## Establish relationships with the existing LUCC faith-based Student Organizations

In September 2016, Lawrence University had two active faith-based student organizations. Lawrence Christian Fellowship, a multi-denominational group of students with an evangelical orientation, which is supported by InterVarsity (IV). IV provides a full-time staff person, who is also a Lawrence alum and has served the campus for many years. Hillel, the Jewish student organization was the other active student organization at the beginning of the year.

In recent history, a number of other faith-based student organizations have existed, but were not currently active. Early in the fall a number of students began to talk about gaps in service for their religious needs. These included Orthodox Christian, Hispanic and Indigenous Christian, Progressive Protestant, Baha'i, Unitarian Universalist, Hindu, and Muslim students. Conversations about campus climate also included a number of faculty and staff who have felt silenced or marginalized by the climate.

As I write this year-end report, we have four active faith-based student groups. We have added LU Pagan Society and reactivated the LU Unitarian Universalist group. All of the

student organizations make regular use of the Center for S&RL and I am in regular contact with the leadership of the groups. In addition, the Center has become a place where a number of student populations who are not in a position to create an active organization are beginning to find a home.

## Develop the Center for Spiritual and Religious Life (Sabin House)

This goal was the largest and most critical of the set. The Center for S&RL is the home, the face, and most importantly a powerful material statement about spiritual and religious life at Lawrence University. Transforming a building from student housing to a center where all members of the Lawrence community are welcomed to engage in individual practice and collaborative spiritual and religious growth was a huge undertaking that required care, thought, and shared ownership.

Reflecting back on the year, the shared work of creation was exactly the right place to begin. We took the time and space to invite the campus community to think about their own desires and needs for a robust spiritual and religious life and how that might manifest in the center and its furnishings. Working closely with members of Lawrence's facilities staff allowed us to re-imagine the bones of the old house to bring in light and open up rooms in

### Faith Based Student Organizations

#### Hillel:

Hillel welcomes all students to learn about and celebrate Jewish life and culture in a way that is welcoming, educational, and fun for the greater Lawrence community.

#### Lawrence Christian Fellowship (LCF)

The purpose of Lawrence Christian Fellowship (LCF) is to establish and advance a witnessing community of students and faculty who follow Jesus, grow in love for God and His word and welcome God's people of every ethnicity and culture.

#### Lawrence University Pagan Society (LUPS)

LUPS provided community support and educational opportunities for the pagan community on campus as well as a meeting, social, and safe space for that community.

#### Lawrence University Unitarian Universalists (LUUU)

LUUU is a place where everyone is welcome, where spiritual and intellectual growth is encouraged, where the interdependent web of life is respected, and where students are taught to celebrate all the world's religions. LUUU aims to be a community for moral and spiritual support in this academic atmosphere.



ways that were appropriate to its new mission. Temporary office space in Raymond house enabled important relationships with Student Life colleagues to emerge naturally and gave easy access to important information about campus details, policy and culture.

Taking a year to listen and consider what an appropriate framework for spiritual and religious growth at Lawrence might be has set a strong foundation for an organic and interactive process. The Center itself (Sabin House) has already become an important resource and symbol. Care in choosing colors, designing spaces, adding furniture, beginning a library, stocking the kitchen, and adding hospitality facilitates easy practice for multiple religious communities and has elicited a common response. During open houses and tours for faculty, students, alumni, trustees, and donors people have reflected back an experience of calm, intentionality, respect, awareness, and possibility.

Faith-based student groups have easily made the space their own and brought into it their sounds, scents, conversations, rituals, and questions. Their desire to share with one another and their intention to be hospitable with one another is a very hopeful sign. Staff and faculty have also responded well and used the space in a number of ways. Intersections and Fourth Friday lunches have been the two S&RL programs that brought people to the Center. Departments and groups have also taken advantage of the Center for planning and team building retreats, health support groups, diversity gatherings and confidential conversations. The community has been remarkably respectful and generous as we move toward a common understanding of a wide range of activities that enhance the spiritual and religious life of the Lawrence community.

**Assess the current context, needs, resources, and gaps in relation to spiritual and religious life**

The office of S&RL will be successful only as it is able to develop strong partnerships across campus and in the community. The long term goal is for the office and the Center to be places people turn to to find resources, many of which will come from across campus. Assessment of context, needs, resources and gaps has begun using relational and process-oriented approaches.

Informational interviews with members of the community make best use of existing trust and knowledge. Interviews on and off campus have all added to a larger picture of Lawrence in the context of the Fox Cities. Attendance of

celebrations and community gatherings on and off campus have helped me gain an intuitive sense of various cultures as well as to hear history from various perspectives. Early explorations of opportunities for collaborations in areas where our missions overlap and resources can be shared are beginning to emerge. Several key connections with student groups that do not identify as faith-based but share common purpose in other areas are emerging. Across campus key overlaps in mission have emerged with Health and Wellness, International Student Services, Diversity Center, Alumni and Constituency Engagement and Development, Religious Studies, Deep Listening, Provost Office, Office of the President, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, PCDA, and the Conservatory of Music. Some of the overlaps are the Intersections program, academic course development, support of persons with marginalized religious

Connected Student Organizations
<u>LUNA</u> LUNA promotes awareness about Native American/Indigenous cultures through education, in addition to being a support group for the students that identify as Native American/Indigenous.
<u>CODA</u> The Committee on Diversity Affairs is a subcommittee of LUCC which helps to represent all student identities, especially those that are under-represented, in the decision making process. CODA provides a safe space to discuss multiple perspectives regarding life at Lawrence.
<u>MARS</u> Men Against Rape & Sexual Assault (MARS) considers the roots of sexual assault and sets a goal of prevention. MARS complements and expands existing campus services by education and training men, who represent the vast majority of sexual assault perpetrators.
<u>Lawrence International</u> Lawrence International works to increase awareness and integration of international cultures through community awareness, internal camaraderie and providing platforms and exposure for the presentation of diverse cultures.

identities, public occasions (including Baccalaureate), community building, dialogue around difficult topics, exploration of values and worldview difference, campus policy and resources, opportunities for the community to gather and support one another at times of stress or transition, and shared commitment to understanding and including spiritual growth in the Lawrence education and experience.

Beyond the campus, communities of faith, religious leaders, and social justice organizations were the focus of assessment in the wider community. I have met with a number of individuals and participated in community gatherings and educational events. Outreach and educational activities in the community include preaching, panel participation, designing and leading workshops, and participating with students in observances of religious holidays.

There are several emerging partnerships with off campus partners. The national Episcopal Church has given us a \$4,451 grant to support the creation of an intergenerational Taizé community in partnership with All Saint Episcopal church and Father Jim Harrison. This grant opportunity allows us to purchase supplies, employ student interns, and has room for inclusion of additional faith communities in the area.

Conversations with Celebrate Diversity Fox Cities will result in several shared training events with campus departments and groups in 2017-18. Our hope is that these can help us move toward developing a structure and plan that will provide a dependable source of trained and experienced dialogue facilitators for the campus and community. Campus partners include student organizations, academic departments, diversity groups, and student community leadership programs (CORE & RLA).

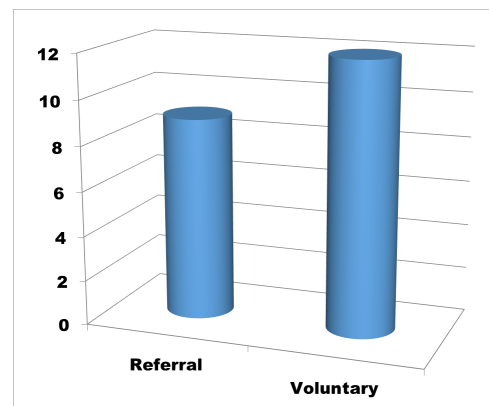
Institutional conversations between this office and staff from student life at St. Norbert College are opening new possibilities. We are identifying ways in which opportunities to share programs and resources might allow us to enhance the opportunities that our students have as well as to combine marginalized communities to create critical mass.

Finally, discussions with some of our area Protestant faith groups about the formation of a shared offering for progressive Protestant students is underway. This possibility would provide a nice compliment to the current offerings for evangelical students through Lawrence Christian Fellowship and the community coalition that is already in partnership with students and employees.

## Support for the spiritual lives of students, staff and faculty beyond formal organizations or groups

During the first year I have been in the process of developing trust and relationships that invite the community to come for spiritual care. Individuals may come on their own, others from campus are also making referrals. The two primary sources of referrals this year were the counseling center and Dean of Students. As a Presbyterian minister, I consider the one-on-one meetings to be *pastoral care*. Over the course of the year I met for individual pastoral care with 21 individuals. More than half of these sought services on their own. Others came through referral. The focus of the meetings can be broken down into three main categories, these are bereavement, persons seeking spiritual companionship, or students wanting support or insight into a relationship or experience that occurs within the context of Lawrence University.

Source of Individuals

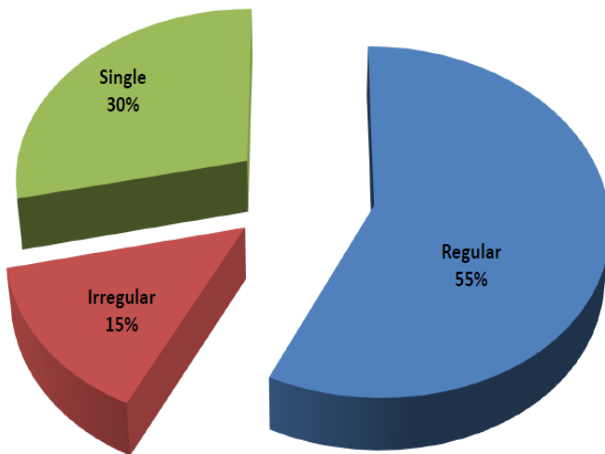


## Individuals & Spiritual Companionship

One of my gifts and joys is working closely with individuals either at times of challenge or for on-going spiritual companionship. Spiritual companionship work in higher education is not limited to students, as all members of the community may seek this companionship. Regular, bi-weekly, meetings are reserved for students. More than half of the persons who asked for an initial meeting returned three or more times. Spiritual companionship involves listening with the individual as he/she/they compose their life in keeping with religious or spiritual convictions. Interestingly, most of the students who came this year were seniors. Topics ranged from exploration of their own faith tradition, to changes in life-course that were unexpected, to mystical experiences.



## Frequency of Individuals



### Bereavement

This year Lawrence lost four members of the community whose deaths involved creating a space for community ritual and mourning. Two of these were a faculty couple who had been very close to many faculty when they were here and were killed in an automobile accident. Care in this instance was provided by faculty for one another, and presence was my contribution. One of the deaths was a current faculty member who died of cancer. His loss impacted persons across the campus and in town. Here, I worked closely with his widow and members of the Buddhist community in the area to develop a Buddhist service of remembrance. Finally, this spring, a student on medical leave took her own life. In this case, I attended a class to help them process and worked with friends to create a campus gathering for memories and shared support. Currently I am working with her parents and friends to develop a memorial service with scattering ashes. We also observed the one-year anniversary of the sudden death of a long-time adjunct faculty member from the Conservatory of Music. I was privileged to work with his widow, a current faculty member, to develop a tree dedication for which alumni, community, and campus came together.

During Alumni weekend, we began the tradition of a multi-faith service of remembrance and thanksgiving. This year it was a small gathering of alums from three different classes who shared memories of persons who

had died as well as gratitude for long memories and for the impact their Lawrence experience and friendships has had on their lives.

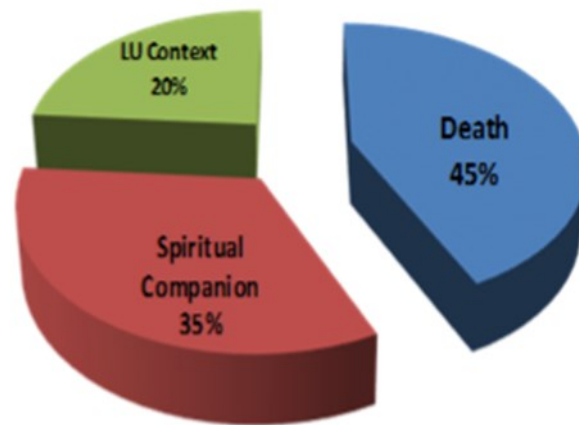
In addition to the gatherings, I saw a number of students who were dealing with the death of a parent. The development of a Lawrence-appropriate practice for spiritual and religious life and creation of a policy proposal to recommend to cabinet are on the list of summer projects.

### Lawrence Context

An exciting part of the work is creating brave spaces for the exploration of spiritual and religious difference and similarity.

One of the reasons for the creation of the new office was a campus climate survey that indicated that members of the community who considered themselves to be religious did not find the climate to be supportive or welcoming. A few of the meetings this year have come out of an individual's experience of the climate and context as being uniformed or hostile to their religious identity. Addressing systemic and cultural bias will be an on-going part of the work of the office. Directly, our presence provides an advocate and co-educator the opportunity to reflect on the experience and to consider effective responses, and a brave space at the Center for S&RL, where persons can practice speaking and listening with persons who come from different worldviews.

## Purpose for Individuals



### Special Religious Observances

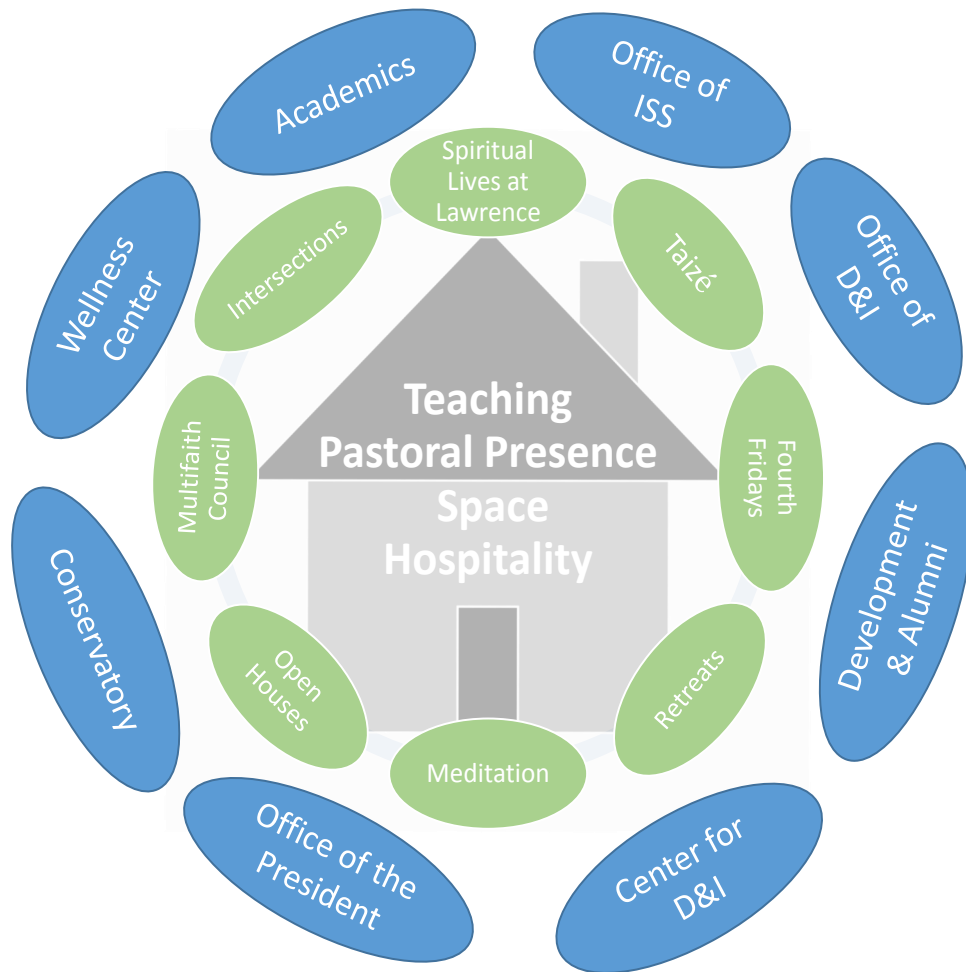
One permeable boundary between campus and community is the religious communities. This is most obvious during designated religious holidays. With a diverse student body, Lawrence is home to a wide range of religious practices. Creating an Office of S&RL has given the university the opportunity to better support engagement with religious communities in the Fox Valley.

We are fortunate to have interested and willing partners in many Christian communities, as well as Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Unitarian

Universalist communities. There are also active Buddhist and Pagan communities in the region. The Office of S&RL has worked with International Student Services and the Diversity Center to support travel for religious observances for Jewish, Muslim, and Pagan students.

On campus we have supported the Ramadan fast and Eid celebration for Muslim students, a campus Hanukkah party and Seder with the Jewish community, and are in the planning process for collaborative campus observations of the bicentennial of the birth of Baha'u'llah (founder of the Baha'i faith).

### **Spiritual and Religious Life Relationships**













## YEAR AT A GLANCE

### SEPTEMBER

Linda Morgan-Clement arrival on campus  
VCSC Into The Streets  
Eid al-Adha

### OCTOBER

Rosh Hoshana  
Yom Kippur  
Fall Festival Course offering  
Facebook page launched  
Sustained Dialogue training  
Sabin Construction-Interior  
Patrick Bolyn-Fitzgerald Memorial  
Sabin usage survey and focus groups

### NOVEMBER

First Taizé service  
First Holy Wisdom Retreat  
Launch Spiritual Lives at Lawrence  
Post Election lunches



### JANUARY

Launch webpage  
Sustained Dialogue Training  
Launch of 4th Friday lunches

### FEBRUARY

Begin Baccalaureate planning  
Launch *Intersections* "Embody"  
Move to Sabin House  
Karen Brennan hired  
Coming Together Multifaith Conference  
Orthodox Christian observances begin  
First Hillel meeting at Sabin House  
First Jummah prayers at Sabin House  
First meeting of LUUU at Sabin House

### MARCH

First meeting of LUPS  
Ostara Celebration  
Sustained Dialogue handover from Dean of Students  
Facilities appreciation dinner



### APRIL

Multifaith Council Launch  
Multifaith Council Open House  
Sabin House Dedication  
*Intersections* "Buddhist Meditation"  
Taizé Jam  
Sabin Student Open House

### MAY

Ramadan Grab & Go food at Sabin  
Taizé grant received

### JUNE

Iftar at Sabin House  
Baccalaureate Service  
Commencement Ice-Cream Social  
Alumni Weekend  
(class, open house & worship )  
Summer Salads at Sabin  
Iftar at Islamic Center of WI



## Programs and Public Occasions

### 4th Friday Soup and Salad

Fourth Friday is a monthly lunch for employees of Lawrence encouraging thoughtful discussion of current topics. This event occurred in Sabin house in winter and spring terms and covered topics such as spiritual space outside of social media and the seasons and occasions of saying goodbye.

### Baccalaureate Planning

Seniors gathered with the Dean to create a multifaith reflection on their spiritual journey at Lawrence. This is the first year that the service included the student designed reflection. Seniors from the conservatory of music provided a number of musical performances. Faculty from the conservatory also consulted on choreography within the service.

### Bjorklunden Unplugged

In support of the Wellness Center, Dean Morgan-Clement took part in the first ever Bjorklunden Unplugged event during the fall term. The weekend was designed to give students the ability to step away from technology and engage with body and mind. Activities included mindful goal setting for the weekend itself, reflection, yoga, meditation, mindful eating discussions, social game time, and bonfire conversations.

### Intersections

Intersections are an opportunity to explore the spaces where our spiritual lives and work/study/activities intersect. Individuals from across campus are invited to lead a three or four week series open to all members of the Lawrence community. While Intersections are grounded in a particular tradition and experience, the explorations are open to all regardless of background.

- Intersections: Embody was an introductory exploration of connections between our bodies and our faith, through a Christian perspective and was lead by Kathy Privatt using tools from her work with Alexander technique.
- Intersections: Buddhist Practice was an introductory exploration of the practice of meditation, through a Buddhist perspective. Matty Wegehaupt lead this exploration.

### Multifaith Council

The Multifaith Council started with three students of varying religious traditions who attended the Coming Together Conference. This grew into a six member council, with an additional eight members who met regularly to establish interfaith dialogues and rules for such dialogue, provide advice and support to the Dean of S&RL and the staff of the Center for S&RL. Council Members: Emily Midyette, Ayomide Akinyosoye, Jawad Alweleiat, Nabor Vazquez, Manuel Ferreira, Ora Raymond



Baccalaureate seniors hold their final pose at the end of the service

## **Programs and Public Occasions (continued)**

### Open Houses and Introductory Events

- Several offices and groups utilized this safe space for relaxed and productive meetings to better forward their departmental initiatives.
- Student Open House
- Facilities Thank You Dinner
- Alumni Weekend Alumni College—Linda Morgan-Clement hosted a course entitled Making Space.
- Alumni Weekend Open House
- LU Office of Development toured the space with their team, discussing with the Dean how to best represent Center objectives to those outside the LU community.
- Dedication with the Office of the President –Cabinet members the President’s Advisory Committee explored the space, watched a documentary on Spiritual Lives at Lawrence, and viewed a short history of spiritual and religious life at Lawrence that was a joint project with the library archivist. Attendees interacted with students who were utilizing the space. Tom Hurvis ‘60 was honored for his generosity in establishing the endowment.
- Parents Leadership Council

### Retreats / Conferences

- Coming Together Multifaith Conference—Three students attended this conference at Colorado College where they engaged in learning about how to speak and work toward multifaith dialogues. Attendees of this conference were the initial core of the Multifaith Council
- Holy Wisdom Retreat—The office of S&RL sponsored a small group of female students to attend a single day retreat at Holy Wisdom Monastery, a Benedictine women’s community located near Madison, WI.

### Spiritual Lives at Lawrence

The Spiritual Lives at Lawrence project seeks to create a video library of diverse persons from across campus talking about their spiritual and religious experiences and practices at Lawrence. It is an ongoing project that will span many years. Students, staff, faculty and alumni are all invited to participate. Interviews are facilitated by Dean Morgan-Clement with filming and editing done by John Newhall ’19, a film studies major.

### Taizé

Taizé practice at Lawrence grew out of a student originated search for ecumenical Christian practice. Worship services, which include chants, silence and scripture were offered in the Center as well as at All Saints Episcopalian Parish.

### Weekly Meditation

The meditation room was made available on Friday afternoons for anyone who wanted to join others to create or follow a practice of sitting meditation. This weekly meditation session was open to students, faculty, and staff. Brief meditation instruction by Connie Kassor (Religious Studies) was offered on the last Friday of each month.



# Looking to 2017 – 18 and Beyond

Attending to the principles that I articulated in the approaches section, there are several main areas and programs that the office will focus on further developing in 2017 – 2018. Intersections, Spiritual Lives at Lawrence, Fourth Fridays, and Sabin House itself will continue similarly to what was experienced in spring term of 2017. I have grouped the focus area in four areas, structure, program, academic, and services.

## Structure

### Student Employees

Student employees will have three functions in the office of S&RL. They will provide some basic administrative support, consult with the office on opportunities and best practices for reaching the Lawrence student body, and play an important role in creating trust and inviting others to connect with the programs and services that are available. They will be learning partners in creating a multi-faith culture. Student activators have been hired in part to bring a diversity of faith backgrounds to the Center and to the work.

This year will be the first to have a team of student employees so we will focus on supervision, job assignments, team meetings, and work balance. With students on board, we will also continue to develop and hone our social media presence. In addition to the activators, John Newhall will continue to manage and film for the Spiritual Lives at Lawrence project.

### Deep Listening

It has become clear that connection with the Deep Listening and Ensemble Thinking courses in the Conservatory of Music has deep capacity for enhancing spiritual and religious life. Both practices enhance participants' capacity to develop deep connections and awareness, increase tolerance for ambiguity and difference, nurture creativity, and support self-awareness in decision making.

## Program

### Multi Faith Council

The Multi Faith Council is intended to be the animating force for multi-faith experiences and reflection coming out of the office of S&RL. Three students took up leadership for the council this year, but it did not really emerge in a coherent way and ownership was not strong. With a full year and possible additional student involvement coming out of my course, I hope that this part of the program can begin to take shape.

### Taizé

The grant from the Episcopal church and the partnership with Father Jim Harrison and the All Saints congregation should move this effort forward strongly in 2017 –18. We will employ two student interns to work closely with Father Jim to offer two services each month when classes are in session. Both will be intergenerational with one being held at All Saints and the other on campus. Advertised occasional services offered at All Saints in 2016 – 17 averaged about 30 in attendance.



### Dialogue Facilitators

Further developing the Sustained Dialogue initiative that began in response to the spring of 2016 list of demands, the goal will be to create a structure and plan that can provide a consistent group of trained and experienced, dialogue facilitators. The first step in the process is to bring together leaders from several campus and community dialogue efforts. Together, we want to identify current needs, and common standards and expectations for training and experience levels of the facilitators. Our hope is to find ways to share the cost of training and to be able to provide opportu-

nities for students, and members of the university and wider community to form diverse dialogue facilitation teams to serve both Lawrence and the community.

This year we will continue our services contract relationship with Sustained Dialogue. Lawrence's RLA's and CORE leaders will be trained in the fall and spring through a contract with Sustained Dialogue. In addition we will offer several training opportunities with Celebrate Diversity Fox Cities. We are hoping to include a few of the CDFC facilitators in the Sustained Dialogue training so that they have a better sense of that approach and model.

### **Academic**

Presence in the classroom plays an important role in enhancing my ability to do the work of Dean of S&RL. Being housed in an academic department keeps me in touch with the realities of academic life and keeps me grounded in faculty concerns and conversations. Teaching through the department helps to build trust with faculty and students as a model of an approach to spiritual and religious development that includes academic resources and practice. This year I will teach two courses and accompany a group to Nepal during the D-term.

### **Services**

#### **Under-represented Religious Students**

Lawrence has several small groups of religious minorities who do not have the capacity to create a student group. The creation of this office brings new opportunities for these students. This past year I met with a number of under-represented religious students who were asking for services that are not available in the immediate area. Two of these are Christian Students of Color and our one Baha'i student. This past year we also supported two Orthodox Christian students, but one is on leave and the other graduated.

This October the Baha'i community will observe the bicentennial of the birth of the Baha'ullah. This is a rich opportunity to offer several chances for the campus to learn about this religious tradition. We are working with our student to partner with Religious Studies faculty offer a field trip to Wilmette to visit the

Baha'i House of Worship for North America, with the Lawrence Concert Choir to perform a piece of music that comes from the Baha'i tradition, and to host a small party with the Appleton Baha'i community and some of our students.

The office will continue to meet with Christian Students of Color to learn more about their needs and to try to help connect them with resources in the area.

#### **Spiritual Direction & Companionship**

I am hoping to be able to regularly offer formal spiritual direction for members of the campus community. This will involve introducing Spiritual Direction to the campus community to gauge interest and then contracting with one or two certified spiritual directors to be available on campus for persons who sign up for services.

In addition, I intend to continue to develop my ability to meet regularly on a one-one basis for spiritual companionship with students who request this service. Structuring my availability for this will be part of the learning curve as I balance regular meetings, administrative leadership, programs, and teaching.

**CENTER PHOTO COLLAGE KEY**

(Left to right, top to bottom)

Tom Meyer supervises kitchen Installation  
Linda Morgan-Clement setting out Ramadan Grab & Go  
Foyer  
Orthodox Crucifix  
Living Room  
Foot Bath  
Wisconsin Winter Porch  
Renovation design notes  
Appreciation dinner  
Ganesh  
Lynn Hagee  
Staircase construction  
Meditation Room  
Shoes during Deep Listening class  
Karen Brennan and Linda Morgan-Clement at end of year Iftar

**Office of Spiritual and Religious Life**

*Linda Morgan-Clement*

Julie Esch Hurvis Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life

920-832-6673

Linda.Morgan-Clement@lawrence.edu

*Karen Brennan*

Administrative Assistant / Sabin House Coordinator

920-832-7167

Karen.L.Brennan@lawrence.edu

**Center For Spiritual and Religious Life**

739 East Alton Street

Appleton, WI 54911

920-832-7167

Spiritual.Religious.Life@lawrence.edu

[www.lawrence.edu/info/offices/spiritual-and-religious-life](http://www.lawrence.edu/info/offices/spiritual-and-religious-life)

Facebook at LU Spirit Space

Open Weekdays

8:30am-5pm

Offices located on second floor